(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) in view of best results obtained from Andhra Pradesh, why cannot the Ministry think of giving incentives to best performing States to encourage them to implement the same more objectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) NREGA is demand driven. Adult members of all rural households who have registered themselves and have been issued job cards under the Act are entitled to get 100 days of employment in a financial year for doing unskilled manual work on demand subject to an over all ceiling of 100 days per household. Number of households applying of employment under NREGA also depends on other employment opportunities available in an area. Therefore, the pace of implementation of NREGA vary from state to state and also in areas with in a state. It is therefore, not desirable to make a comparison of the performance of States. NREGA is still in its formative stage. Incentives to the States are in the form of sharing their initiatives and experiences with other states, recognizing their contribution through the knowledge network which will help in exchange of information and best practices.

Poor sanitation facilities in rural areas

2155. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural sanitation continues to be a serious issue to be addressed by the Governments both at the Central and the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government thereon during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for continued poor sanitation facilities in rural areas of the country and the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Government continues to give utmost importance in supplementing the efforts of the State Governments to provide sanitation facilities to the rural masses. The scheme of Central Rural Sanitation Programme was revised in 1999 and "Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)" launched. The programme has been continued in the XI Plan period and now scaled up to cover 582 rural districts of the country. During the last three years, the programme has been enhanced to include the component of solid and liquid waste management and provision of revolving fund to each district. To encourage the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) to take up sanitation promotion and attain 100% open defecation free environment, incentive scheme Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) has been launched. During 2004-05, 39 PRIs from 6 States received NGP. This number had further increased to 769 PRIs in 2006 and to 4959 PRIS in 2007. Intensive monitoring, awareness and education campaigns, Capacity building activities are being taken up by each State to improve implementation. The Center has also enhanced the budget allocation for TSC in the last three years, from Rs. 400 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 700 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 800 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 1060 crore in 2007-08.

(c) The reason for poor sanitation is mainly the problem of open defecation, which was the only form of sanitation for the majority of the population in rural areas. This practice is

prominently due to the traditional behavioral pattern and lack of awareness of the people about the associated health hazards. To tackle this issue, the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) has been restructured to a community led and people centered approach. The programme gives emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for demand generation for sanitation facilities. It also lays emphasis on school sanitation and hygience education for bringing about attitudinal and behavioral changes for relevant sanitation and hygience practices from young age itself. The programme also develops convergence with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan (SSA) for awareness creation and hygiene education among the people and children in the rural areas.

Upgradation of roads in Kerala under PMGSY

2156. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Centre for upgradation of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Kerala during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of works done during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Normative allocation of funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and funds released to Kerala during the last three years are as under:

S.No.	Year	Normative Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Amount released (Rs. in crore)
1	2005-06	25.00	42.41
2	2006-07	25.00	15.00
3	2007-08	30.00	10.595

(b) The State Government has upgraded the roads during the last three years as under:

S.No.	Year	Roads upgraded (in Km.)
1	2005-06	51.276
2	2006-07	78.890
3	2007-08	75.377

95th Indian Science Congress

2157. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 95th Indian Science Congress was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 95th Session of the Indian Science Congress was held at Visakhapatnam from 3rd to 7th January, 2008. During the session, various issues were discussed which include (1) Biotechnology for well-being of all (2) Space Technology for knowledge (3) Biodiversity